Statement

Details of drought prone areas

Name of State	No. of Districts	No. of Blocks
1. Andhra Pradesh	8	69
2. Bihar	7	54
3. Gujarat	8	43
4. Haryana	1	9
5. Jammu & Kashmir	2	13
6. Karnataka	11	71
7. Madhya Pradesh	6	49
8. Maharashtra	12	74
9. Orissa	4	39
10. Rajasthan	9	30
11. Tamil Nadu	7	43
12. Uttar Pradesh	17	87
13. West Bengal	3	34
TOTAL :	95	615

Directions to take action against Corrupt Sarpanches

1512. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any directions have been given to State Governments to take action against Sarpanches and other who have embezzled funds meant for J.R.Y.;

(b) the details of directions given by the Ministry;

(c) whether any State has refused to implement disciplinary proceedings against corrupt Panchayat officials responsible for misusing J.R.Y. funds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is a decentralised programme of Rural employment implemented by about 450 District Rural Development Agencies (DRDA)/Zilla Parishad (ZP) and 2,20,000 Gram Panchayats. In view of the large number of agencies planning and implementing the programme, safeguards have been provided under the JRY manual, to ensure that

funds are properly utilised for the purpose for which they are allotted. In addititn, directions have been given to the State Governments, DRDAs/ZPs and village panchayats in regard to the system of checks and balances to be followed under JRY to minimise the misappropriation/misutilisation of JRY funds. The account of DRDAs/ZPs/village panchayats are subjected to a regular audit. The release of second instalment of funds under JRY to any district is made only after the audit report for the year before the previous year is submitted to the Government of India.

Further, the State Governments, have been directed to draw up a programme of inspection of JRY works by senior officers, from the State/District/Block level who are required to inspect the works in the village/district at a frequency decided by the State Level Coordination Committee and take necessary action not only to improve the quality of work but also to punish those responsible for any irregularity. Directions have also been given to the Project Directors, DRDAs, during the annual workshops, to deal firmly with the case of misappropriation, and embezzlement of funds etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise

Identification of corrupt Gram Panchayats by collectors

1513. SHRI V. HANNUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Collectors in different States have taken the lead in identifying corrupt Gram Panchayats which have not properly used the J.R.Y. funds;

(b) whether the Ministry has sought till date any report from any Collector or States on how many Panchayats or their Sarpanches have prima facie indulged in mis-appropriation of J.R.Y. funds in 1992-93;

(c) whether any effort has been made by the Ministry to adopt a more serious approach in monitoring the scheme;

(a) whether it is a fact that no officials of the Ministry has visited any district headquarters in Andhra Pradesh to study this problem; and

(e) what steps are being taken to issue strict guidelines to Collectors to unearth and punish erring and corrupt Panchayats and Sarpanches in the matter of J.R.Y. funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Regular monitoring of the scheme is insisted upon through Monthly, Quarterly and Annual Progress Reports. Further, before the release of second instalment of the JRY funds for a district the Government insists among other things on (i) Utilisation of at least 50 per cent of the available funds (ii) Utilisation certificate and (iii) Audit Report for the year before the previous year. Also the Ministry has designated an Area Officer for each State to review and inspect Rural Development works in that State.

(d) No, Sir. The Area Officer for Andhra Pradesh as well as other section officers from the Ministry of Rural Development have visited a few districts in Andhra Pradesh to review the progress of works under JRY, identify the problems in implementation and suggest steps for improvement in performance.

(e) JRY guidelines already provide that at the district level, the entire work relating to coordination, review, supervision and monitoring of the programme will be the responsibility of the District Collectors/District Rural Development Agencies/Zilla Parishads as decided by the State Government. In addition the Government of India have been issuing instructions to the